

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T LONDON 00783

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

FROM MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET. SO, KE XA
SUBJECT: CURRENT BRITH VIEWS ON HORN SITUATION

REF: LONDON 734

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS THIS AFTERNOON WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA QUESTIONS, FONSEC
DAVID OWEN RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE HORN, EXPRESSING
HIS STRONG CONCERN OVER THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THAT
AREA. IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS REMARKS THAT HIS MAIN CON-
CERN IS OVER KENYA. OWEN EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN OVER
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PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON THE HORN, NOTING THAT
THE PROBLEM WAS MORE COMPLICATED THAN JUST AN EAST-WEST
ISSUE. REGARDING SIAD BARRE'S REQUEST FOR WESTERN
ASSISTANCE AGAINST AN ANTICIPATED SOVIET-SUPPORTED
ATTACK (REPORTED IN REFTTEL), OWEN ASSERTED THAT SENDING
IN BRITISH TROOPS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION BUT SAID THAT
IF SOMALIA WITHDREW FROM THE OGADEN, ACCEPTED OGADEN

AUTONOMY UNDER ETHIOPIA, AND PROVIDED GUARANTEES TO KENYA, GREAT BRITAIN WOULD BE WILLING TO SELL THEM ARMS. THESE ACTIONS, OWEN SAID, SHOULD BE ESSENTIAL PRECONDITIONS FOR ANY SECURITY GUARANTEE TO SOMALIA.

2. ACCORDING TO OWEN, WHO HAS RECENTLY SEEN KENYATTA, THE KENYA CONCERNS ARE VERY REAL AND ASSURANCES TO THEM ARE IN ORDER. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO OWEN, THE KENYANS HAVE INFLUENCE ON THE ETHIOPIANS.

3. AFTER MOOSE OUTLINED TO OWEN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING EFFORTS UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON, OWEN NOTED HIS APPROVAL OF THE RECENT SAUDI AND IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT. (EARLIER IN THE DAY GRAHAM HAD NOTED THAT THE BRITISH ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE INDIANS' INTEREST IN PLAYING A ROLE.) OWEN ALSO REPORTED THAT MENGISTU HAS ASKED (ACCORDING TO GRAHAM IT WAS THROUGH ETEKI) THAT THE NIGERIANS REVIVE THEIR MEDIATION EFFORT.

4. OWEN AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR A QUADRIPARTITE GROUP TO DISCUSS THE HORN IN NEW YORK ON THURSDAY, BUT OPPOSED THE INCLUSION OF THE ITALIANS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY ARE "TOO LEAKY." IN PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING HE INSTRUCTED HIS STAFF TO OBTAIN A JOINT US-UK INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT OF SIAD BARRE'S REPORT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PLANNING TO HELP MOUNT AN
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ATTACK ON HARGEISA AND BERBERA.

BREWSTER

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